

ANTI-RACISM

The Albemarle County School Board (“Board”) and the Albemarle County Public Schools (“Division”) reject all forms of racism as destructive to the Division’s mission, vision, values, and goals. The Board is committed to the following principles:

1. Establishing and sustaining a school community that shares the collective responsibility to address, eliminate, and prevent actions, decisions, and outcomes that result from and perpetuate racism.
2. Eliminating inequitable practices and cultivating the unique gifts, talents, and interests of every child to end the predictive value of social or cultural factors, such as race, class, or gender, on student success (ACPS Equity & Access Initiative: A Call to Action, 2017).
3. Respecting and championing the diversity and life experiences of all community members to support the school division’s mission, vision, values, goals, and objectives.
4. Acknowledging that racism is often compounded by other forms of discrimination, including, but not limited to, those protective classes referenced in policy AC, *Nondiscrimination*.

Purpose

Personal and institutional racism have historically existed and continues to exist in the Division. Combating racism in our schools is a legal and moral imperative.

In this Division, there are significant disparities between racial groups in student academic performance, achievement, and participation in academic programs. These include disparities in graduation rates, gifted identification, course participation, special education identification, standardized test scores, and suspension rates. Disparities also exist between the racial demographics of the students in the Division and the staff the Division hires.

These equity gaps exist because of inequitable access to opportunities that have significant intergenerational effects and perpetuate economic, social, and educational inequity. However, racial inequities were created over time and can be eliminated. Similarly, personal prejudice is learned and can be unlearned. Educators play a vital role in reducing racism and inequity by recognizing the manifestations of racism, creating culturally inclusive learning and working environments, and dismantling educational systems that directly or indirectly perpetuate racism and privilege through teaching, policy, and practice.

The purpose of this policy is to eliminate all forms of racism from the Division in conjunction with related Board policies.

Definitions adapted from the *Government Alliance on Race and Equity* at www.racialequityalliance.org)

Anti-racism: the practice of identifying, challenging, and changing the values, structures, and behaviors that perpetuate systemic racism.

Individual racism: pre-judgment, bias, or discrimination by an individual based on race. Individual racism includes both privately held beliefs, conscious and unconscious, and external behaviors and actions towards others.

Institutional racism: occurs within institutions and organizations, such as schools, that adopt and maintain policies, practices, and procedures that often unintentionally produce inequitable outcomes for people of color and advantages for white people.

Structural (or systemic) racism: encompasses the history and current reality of institutional racism across all institutions and society. It refers to the history, culture, ideology, and interactions of institutions and policies that perpetuate a system of inequity that is detrimental to communities of color.

Adopted: February 28, 2019

Amended: October 11, 2024

Cross Refs: AC, *Nondiscrimination*
GB, *Equal Employment Opportunity*
GLC, *Professional Learning and Staff Development*
IGAK, *Equity Education*
INB, *Teaching about Controversial Issues*
JB, *Equal Educational Opportunities*
JFC, *Student Conduct*
JFHA, *Prohibition against Harassment and Retaliation*

ANTI-RACISM POLICY REGULATIONS

These regulations are designed to dismantle the individual, institutional, and structural racism that exists in the Division. The Board directs the following action:

Policy Communication

1. Each school shall post a public statement against racism in a location visible to students, staff, and visitors entering the school. The Division will also post a public statement in high traffic locations at its main offices and on the Division website. The public statement shall read: “Albemarle County Public Schools is committed to establishing and sustaining an equitable community that achieves the School Division’s equity mission to end the predictive value of race and ensure each individual student’s and staff’s success. The Albemarle County School Board and School Division reject all forms of racism as destructive to their mission, vision, values, and goals.”
2. The Board shall establish an organization or committee of students in the Division to promote equity and diversity and to serve as leaders and spokespersons within their schools and the Division.
3. This policy shall be included in student handbooks provided to students and families.
4. This policy shall be translated into other languages and be made available for families.

Leadership and Administration

The Board shall address systemic racism as follows:

1. Develop and conduct a systemic Equity Needs Assessment for the Division to identify processes and practices that cause or contribute to inequitable outcomes. The Assessment shall also include an inventory of what equity-related data is currently collected by the Division. Following the assessment, strategies will be developed and implemented to address the identified issues.
2. To address disparities in course participation (including AP/honors participation):
 - a. All school staff making class recommendations shall provide a written electronic explanation for the recommendation to students and/or families.
 - b. School counselors shall be responsible for educating students and families as equitable partners in the selection process and course sequencing.
 - c. Middle and high schools will offer opportunities for supplementary coursework, such as summer bridge programs or tutoring during or after school, to students interested in moving to higher level courses.

3. The Board shall implement alternative discipline processes, such as restorative justice, to reduce racial disparities in discipline and suspension.

a. To ensure consistency in student discipline, each school shall collect and, at least annually, report data on all disciplinary actions. The data shall include the student's race/ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, special education, and English Language Learner status, as well as a written explanation of the behavior leading to discipline and the specific corrective action taken.

b. When school administrators determine a student has committed a racist act, the student will be provided the opportunity to learn about the impact of their actions on others through such practices as restorative justice, mediation, role play or other explicit policies or training resources.

Curriculum and Instruction

1. Curriculum and instructional materials for all grades shall reflect cultural and racial diversity and include a range of perspectives and experiences, particularly those of historically underrepresented groups of color.

2. All curriculum materials shall be examined for racial bias by the Division's Department of Student Learning. Where materials reflect racial bias, teachers utilizing the materials will acknowledge the bias and communicate it to students and parents.

3. The Board and Division shall implement an anti-racist curriculum and provide educational resources for students at every grade level.

4. Student in-class and extra-curricular programs and activities shall be designed to provide opportunities for cross-cultural and cross-racial interactions to foster respect for cultural and racial diversity. The Board shall support interschool activities that will allow students to experience the diversity within the Division.

Training

1. All Board and Division staff shall be trained in this anti-racism policy.

2. All teachers and administrators shall be trained in cultural awareness and/or culturally responsive teaching practices. Culturally responsive teaching practices shall be incorporated into Board approved appraisal systems, including the teacher appraisal system and the administrator performance appraisal.

- ACPS will ensure that all licensed staff members earn an ACPS-specific Culturally Responsive Education (CRE) micro-credential or certification following these guidelines as the Board approved cultural competency training Va. Code § 22.1-298.7:

- All licensed staff and teachers under contract prior to or during the 2023 – 2024 school year will complete their micro-credential or certification process by the 2025 – 2026 year. The only exception to this requirement will be for elementary teachers who must meet the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) requirements during the 2025 – 2026 school year. These teachers will be granted an extension to meet the CRE requirements by the conclusion of the 2027 – 2028 school year.
- Any licensed staff and new teachers hired during the 2024 – 2025 school will complete their CRE micro-credential or certification within three years of their hire date. The only exception to this requirement will be for elementary teachers who must meet the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) requirements during the 2025 – 2026 school year. These teachers will be granted a one year extension to meet the CRE requirements by the conclusion of the 2027 – 2028 school year.
- Any novice or provisionally licensed teacher hired during the 2024 – 2025 school year or thereafter will complete their CRE micro-credential as part of the three-year novice teacher induction program.
- Any new teacher hired during the 2025 – 2026 school year or after will complete their CRE micro-credential as part of a two-year new teacher induction program.
- Any licensed staff hired during the 2025 – 2026 school year or after will complete their CRE micro-credential or certification within three years of their hire date.

Terms:

Novice teacher: A teacher within their first three years of teaching.

Provisionally Licensed Teacher: A teacher within their first three years who is pursuing licensure through an alternative route.

New Teacher: A teacher hired to ACPS with previous years of experience.

3. All Division staff shall be trained about racism and about how racism produces inequitable practices and outcomes.

Policy Enforcement

1. Staff shall collect, review, and provide an annual report to the School Board on data regarding racial disparities in areas including, but not limited to, student achievement, enrollment, suspension/discipline, graduation rates, and gifted identification. The report shall also include evidence of growth in each area outlined by the anti-racism policy (i.e., communication,

leadership and administration, curriculum and instruction). The written reports shall also be made available to the public, to the student diversity committee, and to school equity teams.

2. The assistant superintendent for school and community empowerment shall be responsible for implementation and evaluation of Division strategies for implementation. Adequate resources shall be appropriated.

3. The Division shall ensure there are various, including anonymous, means for students and staff to report racism and other forms of discrimination.